

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
----- 045629 /71

R 171505Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 508
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, CM, GR, CT
SUBJ: EMPEROR BOKASSA AND THE BYZANTINE TRADITION

1. AT FAREWELL PARTY OFFERED BY GREEK AMBASSADOR MITSOPOULOS WHO IS DEFINITELY DEPARTING AT END OF MONTH TO BECOME, APPROPRIATELY, AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA, I CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS NEW STATUS AS ENVOY TO IMPERIAL COURT OF CENTRAL AFRICA.

2. MITSOPOULOS REPLIED THAT HE WAS THE FIRST AMBASSADOR TO BE RECEIVED BY EMPEROR AFTER PROCLAMATION OF EMPIRE, WHILE IN BANGUI TO PAY FAREWELL CALL. EMPEROR RATHER NERVOUSLY INQUIRED OF AMBASSADOR HOW HE THOUGHT GREEK PEOPLE WOULD REACT TO PROCLAMATION OF EMPIRE. MITSOPOULOS RESPONDED THAT REACTION WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC BECAUSE GREEKS HAVE IMPERIAL TRADITION OF THEIR OWN. AT THIS POINT I THOUGHT GREEK WOULD INCONGRUOUSLY REFER TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT, BUT HE HAD IN MIND BYZANTINE EMPIRE, WHICH PERHAPS SLIGHTLY BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE
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ANALOGOUS. AMBASSADOR THEN TOLD EMPEROR THAT HE WOULD LOOK AT HOME IN ATHENS FOR A BOOK ON PROTOCOL IN BYZANTINE EMPIRE, TO SEND BOK I. EMPEROR GRATEFULLY URGED HIM TO DO SO.

3. COMMENT: WE WHO BASK IN REFLECTED GLORY OF NEW CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE IN THE MARSHES ON ITS BORDERS ARE GRATEFUL

FOR PROTOCOLARY PREOCCUPATIONS IN BANGUI, EVEN IF BYZANTINE,
IF THESE WILL DEFLECT RULER FROM ACTIVITIES WITH WIDER
RAMIFICATIONS.
SPIRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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